United Nations A/58/432

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 October 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 8 and 13 October 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.3 and 4). An addendum to the present report will reflect the further consideration of the item by the Committee during the fifty-eighth session.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 3 July 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, transmitting a letter dated 27 June 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/57/39);

(b) Letter dated 1 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, transmitting a letter dated 26 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations (A/C.5/58/4).

03-55484 (E) 151003

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.2

4. At the 4th meeting, on 13 October, the representative of Sweden and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/58/L.2).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.2 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of position was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the letter dated 3 July 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee transmitting a letter dated 27 June 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions regarding the recommendations of that Committee on requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations,[1]

Having also considered the letter dated 1 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee transmitting a letter dated 26 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations,[2]

Reaffirming the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Reaffirms also* its resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999;

3. *Agrees* that the failure of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was due to conditions beyond their

[1] A/C.5/57/39.
[2] A/C.5/58/4.

control, while noting the observations in paragraphs 82 and 90 of the appendix to document A/C.5/57/39;

4. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Niger, and welcomes its intention to submit a schedule for the payment of its contributions and arrears;

5. *Concludes* that the failure of the Niger to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was due to conditions beyond its control, and invites the Niger to submit appropriate information to the Committee on Contributions if similar circumstances prevail in the future;

6. *Decides* that Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan should be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until 30 June 2004.